Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

Traces routed through a computer depiction of a routing area of a system, such as an electronics system, comprise a plurality of connected nodes. The traces may be smoothed, straightened, or otherwise adjusted (e.g., to correct design rule violations) by assigning forces to the nodes and moving the nodes in accordance with the nodes. Forces are assigned to the nodes, and the nodes are moved in accordance with the forces. The forces may be based on such things as the proximity of the nodes to each other and to obstacles in the routing area. This tends to smooth, straighten and/or shorten the traces, and may also tend to correct design rule violations.